

# Leader

September 2005

Magazine for Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools



## All aboard:

### FTX tests cadets' ability to survive



*Det. 090 Wing Walker Honor Guard squeezes in a final practice before the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet 2005 in March. SCIDM is one of the largest and most prestigious drill competitions in the nation. Last year, the meet hosted nearly 1,000 junior and senior cadets and midshipmen from Air Force, Army and Navy ROTC units from across the country. SCIDM '04 also featured 25 training/drill instructors from Lackland Air Force Base, the San Diego Marine Corps Recruiting Depot and Fort Irwin. (Photo by Cadet Joe Caracillo)*

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## Leader

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*Cover: ROTC cadets load a bus heading toward Blue Thunder, a simulated forward deployed location, at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in July. (Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons)*

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# Airmen, & Core Values Spiritual Strength

SIGHT PICTURE

**By Gen. John P. Jumper**  
Air Force Chief of Staff

Our lives changed when we took the oath to defend our nation and put on the uniform of an Airman. But what was that change? Was it merely symbols — uniform, rank, and badges? No, it was a transformation from whoever we were before to someone vested in higher order values, a transformation into a part of something bigger than ourselves. We come from all walks of life, from every part of our nation. We are different people from diverse backgrounds and with our diversity we bring different sets of values. We have different hopes and aspirations, different goals and different beliefs. It is perhaps our nation's greatest strength that, since its founding, we can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of different origins and beliefs for a single purpose — to serve.

As part of our service in the United States Air Force we are expected to embrace its Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence In All We Do. These Values are a guide that binds us together, even as we fight for the right to be different in so many other ways. We use the word "Core" because we expect these values to be fundamental to our service, to guide our commitment to our country and our mission, and to serve as a test for the decisions we make in both our personal and professional lives. Our commitment to these Core Values means that they are more than just words posted on a wall or recited by rote. They reside in the front row of our daily lives to

help us wrestle with our toughest decisions and to guide us on our path of service as Airmen.

At our Air Force Academy, we have experienced issues with expressions of religious beliefs and with perceptions that one set of beliefs is favored over others. Remember Service Before Self. Religion is intensely personal and disagreements can detract from the teamwork necessary for Air Force units. In particular, sharing personal beliefs in a professional setting, one where leaders are performing their duties in a chain of command or in a superior-subordinate relationship, can easily become improper influence about personal matters. Furthermore, it can be resented. A friend of mine recently expressed it this way: "The core task of every leader in the profession of arms is uniting his or her people into a strong team, with levels of trust and commitment so high the unit keeps working well even under extreme pressure. Everyone in a unit contributes to that task." Anything that detracts from that teamwork ultimately detracts from the mission.

What does this mean about how leaders should approach spiritual strength? Spiritual strength is an integral part of leadership. Our greatest leaders are able to elevate the human spirit and inspire extraordinary performance. Spiritual strength is what drives us to make sacrifices for others, for our Nation, and for the greater good. For some, a commitment



*Gen. John P. Jumper*

to a specific religious faith is a source for that spiritual strength, but not for all. For some, it is their heritage and the experience of a community of people within our human family. For others, it is the way they were touched as individuals by a family member, teacher, or leader's work of faith or

charity. As we stress our Core Value of Service Before Self, we see spiritual strength as its foundation, whether or not an individual sees himself or herself as religious.

Faith and religious freedom were fundamental to the founding of this Nation. Chaplains are part of our profession of arms and have a unique charter: to minister to those who share their specific faith, to facilitate ministry to those of other faiths, and to care for all — including those whose spiritual strength does not come from religious belief. Our chaplains should set the example for mutual respect among different faiths and beliefs. Service Before Self.

There will be more specific guidance about expressions of personal religious beliefs. This guidance will emphasize mutual respect and the wingman culture fundamental to all Airmen. The expression of personal preferences to subordinates, especially in a professional setting or at mandatory events, is inappropriate. More importantly, we should always be guided by our Core Values. That's what makes us the superb Airmen that we are.



# Tradition: *New AFOATS commander explains devotion to Air Force*

**By Breanna Wood**

Headquarters Air University Public Affairs, Ala.

Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools welcomed the new AFOATS commander, Brig. Gen. Ronnie B. Hawkins Jr., June 20.

General Hawkins set out to serve his country as an officer after receiving his commission as a distinguished graduate from Texas' Angelo State University ROTC program in 1977. And now, 28 years later, he has returned to AFOATS, although this time as commander.

After initially being medically disqualified for both the Air Force Academy and ROTC due to a football wrist injury, General Hawkins considers it a blessing to have made it this far in an institution that once told him "No."

"I love the Air Force," General Hawkins said. "My whole family loves the Air Force. My wife and I consider it a great honor to serve here with the AFOATS team."

General Hawkins comes to Maxwell from Air Force Headquarters in Washington D.C. where he served since May of 2003 as the director of Communications Operations, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics.

His goal for AFOATS is to learn and know how to better serve the Air Force's needs through AFOATS. General Hawkins said that he is excited to be here and plans to continue the legacy that Brig. Gen. Carpenter left behind.

He said that his philosophy on lead-

ership is to "Lead with integrity."

"As long as you do that, everything else will fall into place," General Hawkins said. "You are able to make a positive influence with people by leading with integrity."

Being one of many family members dedicated to armed forces service, the military is in General Hawkins' blood. He is the son of a retired Air Force chief master sergeant, has two sons in the Air Force, a brother in the Army, a nephew in the Navy and with pictures of buffalo soldiers adorning his office walls, he proudly commemorates even his grandfather's military legacy.

Being stationed in Southwest Asia as the director of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems, Joint Task Force was one of his most interesting assignments, General Hawkins said. Though being away from his family on the yearlong remote was very hard personally, he values his mission there as the most operationally rewarding of his career.

General Hawkins has been married for 31 years to his high school sweetheart, Maria. They have two sons, F-16 pilot Capt. Ronnie Hawkins III,

stationed at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and 1st Lt. Joshua Hawkins, who is assigned to the Presidential Honor Guard at Bolling AFB, D.C. General and Mrs. Hawkins are also raising their 14-year-old niece, Toni.

Born in Alaska, as an Air Force brat General Hawkins moved constantly while growing up. He said he considers



*Photo by Carl Bergquist*

*Brig. Gen. Ronnie B. Hawkins Jr. is the new Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools' commander. He comes to Maxwell from Air Force Headquarters in Washington D.C. as the director of Communications Operations, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics.*

San Angelo, Texas, the place he lived the longest and where he met his wife Maria, his hometown.

Considering being at work one of his hobbies, Dallas Cowboy's fan General Hawkins also enjoys being heavily involved with his church, spending time with his niece, running, weight lifting and listening to country music.

After many years of United States Air Force service, he said he has learned many valuable lessons.

"It's a trite but true statement, take care of your people and they will take care of you, and do the best at the job you are in," General Hawkins said. "The Air Force as large as it is, is still a very small family."

Welcome to

# *Air Force ROTC*

Whether this is your first or last year in the program, we're excited you've joined us and look forward to working with you. We are extremely fortunate to have each of you on the team and I know this year will be filled with new challenges and many rewards.

There is a Chinese proverb that reminds us that nothing is insurmountable. It says: "The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying small stones." Let's move some stones, and by the end of the year we will have moved mountains together.

Forecasts for 2005-2006 call for challenging times ahead, and I'm confident our AF-ROTC team will pull together to meet these challenges. You are striving to become part of a unique and time-honored profession — the profession of arms. As warriors, your purpose will be to defend your country, pure and simple. I envy the opportunity that's ahead of you. You will have many unique experiences and adventures that you will only find in the Air Force.

Again, welcome aboard and best wishes for a safe, successful year ahead.



**ROTC**  
National Commander

# Hazing: it's not an option

**By Senior Airman Krista Coons**  
Leader Editor

At the beginning of every academic school year, officials address the issue of hazing as a reminder to those starting off the new school year: the practice is not acceptable in the United States Air Force.

The training conducted at Officer Training School, ROTC and Junior ROTC can be very demanding, and officials warn that there is a line that should not be crossed when it comes to the treatment of members during training.

Department of Defense policy defines hazing as any conduct whereby a military member or members, regardless of service or rank, without proper authority, causes another military member or members regardless of service or rank, to suffer or to be exposed to any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful. Soliciting or coercing another to perpetrate any such activity is also considered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact among or between military members; it can be verbal or psychological in nature.

"The military is an institution that is driven by its customs and traditions. They root us and guide us in our big decisions involving human life. There is nothing wrong with having traditions; they are very healthy for us. And there is nothing wrong with rites of passage. When cadets are commissioned or promoted, that is a rite of passage. The problem is when a rite of passage starts to become harmful, hurtful or degrading in some way to the person involved," said Capt. Ephraim Gerstein, the deputy staff judge advocate of Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

"The primary goal in a training environment is to learn, grow, develop and be challenged, if the activity is designed to achieve those goals, and that design can be explained in terms of those goals, then it is perfectly appropriate," said

Captain Gerstein.

The guidance on hazing has not changed in several years. Public law, including Article 93 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which prohibits "cruelty and maltreatment," and Air Force instructions prohibit hazing and provide commanders with disciplinary and administrative tools in dealing with those who conduct the hazing. Commanders have a full spectrum of options available to them, ranging from oral counseling to UCMJ actions, including courts-martial when hazing is proven.

Captain Gerstein also noted that hazing is not limited to official military training activities. For example, if "Cadet X" were to subject "Cadet Y" to "cruel, abusive, humiliating, oppressive, demeaning or harmful" treatment while they both were participating in a fraternity or sorority, Arnold Air Society, sports team or similar non-military activity, then Cadet X has committed hazing and may be subject to appropriate administrative and/or disciplinary action.

Further examples of hazing include playing abusive tricks; threatening or offering violence or bodily harm to another; striking, branding, tattooing, shaving, greasing, painting, "blood pinning," or forcing or requiring the consumption of food, alcohol, drugs or any other substance upon someone else.

AFOATS received one allegation of hazing during the 2004-2005 academic year. Higher ranking cadets were using their power over lower ranking cadets in the cadet wing and Arnold Air Society to get them to perform illegal actions. The senior cadets used abusive language and attempted to exercise corporal pun-

ishment on the cadets. The report also cited that lower ranking cadets were encouraged to deface public buildings by removing letters in a sign in order to alter the wording, and another cadet indecently exposed himself in public.

In addition, in previous years, trainees have reported other incidents of hazing. In one case, a senior-ranking trainee ordered a flight of junior-ranking trainees to do push-ups on hot concrete at a training encampment. While several trainees informed the senior trainee that

the concrete was burning their hands, they were not permitted to use their web belts or any other material to protect their hands from the hot concrete.

In another incident, during a base visit,

a senior-ranking trainee ordered two junior-ranking trainees to perform several demeaning acts. One of the acts included filling up buckets of water and pouring them over their heads while one of the cadets was forced to tell the other that he wanted to marry him.

Each of these incidents was investigated as an incident of hazing and resulted in disciplinary action, which included investigations into the possible removal of the senior cadets involved.

"A lot of people think hazing is a necessary part of military tradition, but in the real world it died many years ago," said Col. Steven E. Wayne, Air Force ROTC commander. "We firmly believe hazing is not the right way to train cadets to become officers. It represents an immature ritual that is also illegal. There is no place in the Air Force for people to denigrate and disrespect another individual."

**"There is no place  
in the Air Force for  
people to denigrate  
and disrespect another  
individual."**

**— Col. Steven E. Wayne**

**Air Force ROTC commander**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Wright

*Officer Training School, ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets are warned at the beginning of every academic school year of the repercussions of hazing. Individuals identified as being involved with hazing will be held responsible for their actions because AFOATS has a zero-tolerance hazing policy, said Col. Steven E. Wayne, Air Force ROTC commander. Above: In the past, Air Force Academy upper-class cadets would indoctrinate freshmen cadets with boot camp-style yelling combined with extensive physical training. Now, training is conducted in a more participatory manner, with mentoring and some cold, hard stares as part of the new "four-class" system of leadership development that occurs during all four class years.*

Individuals identified as being involved with hazing will be held responsible for their actions because AFOATS has a zero-tolerance hazing policy, said Colonel Wayne.

Individuals who believe they have witnessed acts of hazing are urged to immediately report the incident to the proper authorities.

"Part of being in the Air Force is making sure all the rules are followed, and protecting each other and the organization by letting your commander know when things aren't right," said Colonel Wayne. "It is part of being a

professional Airman and an officer. If you know things are wrong within your cadet wing and Arnold Air Society, you have an obligation to let your cadre chain-of-command know about those issues."

Any cadet who believes he or she has been a victim of hazing by an Air Force member or another cadet should report the incident to the detachment commander or ROTC regional headquarters. Officer trainees should report incidents to the Officer Training School commander, Col. David Gerber at 334-953-5222. Also, cadets and OTs should bring concerns of hazing incidents to the atten-

tion of the AFOATS inspector general, Lt. Col. Don Olds, Jr at 334-953-8825. Contact information for each of these agencies is posted on detachment bulletin boards. In addition, JROTC cadets who believe they have been victims of hazing by other cadets or instructors should bring their concerns to the attention of their school officials.

"In the Air Force we need every individual to perform at their maximum potential. Incidents of hazing will significantly affect the individual and the organization. It will not be tolerated," said Colonel Wayne.



# *Regional Studies: How Sudan's stability impacts Americans*

**Capt. Ray McPherson**

AFOATS Curriculum

Many Americans, for some unfounded reason, have always regarded Africa as a region of little interest to the United States. Nothing could be further from the truth. Historically, our involvement in Africa has run the gamut, from famine relief to debt relief, from AIDS research to disease prevention and from peacekeeping support in the Darfur region of Sudan to multiple non-combatant evacuation operations in the war-ravaged country of Liberia. Unfortunately, if current events in places like Darfur are any indicator of future involvement, the historical trend of American involvement in Africa will continue.

Sudan, which is the largest country in Africa, is a violent place. The Sudanese have only known 10 years of peace in the 49 years since they gained their independence from Great Britain. Today, there are two independent civil wars occurring in

Sudan, one in the most southern region of the country and one in the Darfur region.

The United States government has a vested interest in the outcome of these conflicts for a couple of reasons. For starters, the continued widespread ethnic cleansing in both civil wars is an unmitigated humanitarian disaster.

Add to that the fact that a large region of ungoverned space in the central part of the country is a haven for international terrorists and it's easy to see why the United States is interested. In fact, two of our National Security Strategy goals, "Preserving Human Dignity" and "Combating Global Terrorism" are directly impacted by the situation in Sudan today.

To call the humanitarian situation in Sudan a disaster is an understatement. To date, more than 2 million have died and more than 5 million more are refugees due

to the ongoing conflicts and ethnic cleansing.

While the recent conflict in Darfur has gained worldwide notoriety, the southern conflict has been ignored by the outside world. In the 21 years since the southern war began, almost one-fifth of the entire Sudanese population have been driven from their homes or killed in the ethnic cleansing campaigns. Let's put that in perspective; during the entire history of American warfare, from the Revolutionary War through Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, approximately 1.2 million Americans have died on the battlefield. While that number is indeed tragic, the people of Sudan have seen over 2 million people die in only 21 years, less than one-tenth of the time. Both the Sudanese government and their primary opponent the Sudanese People's Liberation



*Photo by 1st Lt. John Beach*

*Nigerian troops march toward an Air Force C-130 Hercules. The aircraft flew them to the Sudan on Oct. 28. President Bush sent two C-130s to the African Union to help reduce the humanitarian crisis in the Darfur region.*



Army have been relentless in their brutality. Mass killings, rapes and mutilations of innocent civilians have become the norm for both parties in this conflict. Hopefully, this is about to end.

After almost three years of negotiating, the two parties signed the Naivasha Protocols Jan. 8.

The agreement calls for a six-year transition period of peace after which Southern Sudan can legally seek independence. This is an ambitious treaty and only time will tell if both sides live up to the accords. Unfortunately, the protocols have one glaring omission; they don't hold anyone accountable for the human rights violations committed during the war. This oversight seems to have convinced the Sudanese government that they can get away with the same atrocities in Darfur.

The civil war in the Darfur region, which began approximately two years ago, can be attributed to a number of causes, including scarce resources, lack of governance, and ethnicity. There simply isn't enough food, water, or habitable land for the growing population. Although the region has always had an inadequate supply of potable water, droughts over the last few years have turned the water shortage into a desperate situation. The extended drought has increased soil erosion, which led to a decrease in fertile farming and grazing land and increasing desertification, which in turn has led to a significant decline in wildlife populations. Adding this environmental challenge to the existing ethnic and racial tensions between the sedentary African farmers in Darfur and the pastoralist Arab tribes only worsens the problem.

From the very beginning, the Darfur conflict has taken brutality to a new level. While most of the world seems reluctant to call this ethnic cleansing, the majority of atrocities committed in Darfur are committed by the Arabic Janjaweed rebels against the African population. Rape, torture, assassination, and slavery are widespread. Dozens of villages have been burned to the ground,

30,000 innocent men, women, and children have been killed and at least 1 million new refugees have been forced from their homes and villages. In many cases, the victims were lined up and executed by firing squads or thrown into massive fires. Practically every woman

that escapes with her life has been raped and maimed in some way.

As if the rebel atrocities weren't enough, there is also increasing evidence of government involvement in these attacks, up to and including

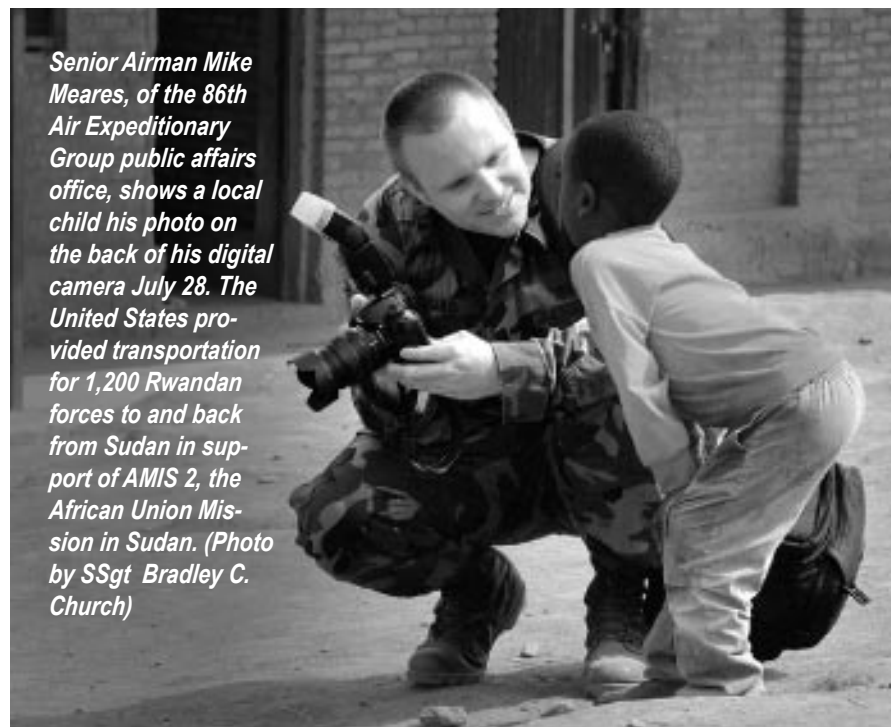
air support for the attacks. At the very least, the Arabic Muslim government has allowed the Janjaweed rebels to conduct a reign of terror against the African Muslims in Darfur. Many independent reports indicate widespread government military involvement with the rebels who wear uniforms similar to the Sudanese military and use the exact same weapons. Many of the raids and attacks have also involved Sudanese military helicopter gunships.

In addition to the tragic number of deaths in the area, the United States is also interested in the Sudan because of

the role this area has played in global terrorism. The third of the country that has been relatively free of war, the central area, hasn't seen widespread violence because there's no government there to fight. It's a large region of ungoverned space historically favored by those seeking to avoid governmental authorities. Osama bin Ladin moved into this area in 1991 and set up businesses and terrorist enterprises. During this period, he issued his first Fatwa, "A declaration of war against the Americans occupying the land of the two holy places" (Saudi Arabia). Even though Sudan finally succumbed to pressure from foreign governments and expelled bin Laden in 1996 the region remains a hotbed for other terrorist groups. These large ungoverned spaces, like central Sudan, where terror groups have free reign to train and prepare for devastating attacks remain dangerous. For the global struggle against violent extremism to be successful, the United States must help regain control of these areas.

If history is any indication, the U.S. will most likely remain involved in Africa for the foreseeable future. Since the Department of Defense will be involved in many of these engagements, it's imperative that America's military professionals recognize and prepare to deal with these future threats.

**"Practically every woman that escapes with her life has been raped and maimed in some way."**



*Senior Airman Mike Meares, of the 86th Air Expeditionary Group public affairs office, shows a local child his photo on the back of his digital camera July 28. The United States provided transportation for 1,200 Rwandan forces to and back from Sudan in support of AMIS 2, the African Union Mission in Sudan. (Photo by SSgt Bradley C. Church)*

# Sophomore ROTC cadets

## soar to the occasion

**By Cadet Carl Price**

Det. 890, University of Virginia, Va.

Thirty-nine ROTC cadets met at a hotel in Charleston, S.C., just minutes from Charleston Air Force Base in July. The cadets hailed from across the country – from California to Virginia, from Texas to North Dakota, from big name schools like Notre Dame to smaller institutions like Middle Tennessee State University. Despite the different backgrounds and noticeably different accents, the cadets sat down together to begin their three-week stay for the Rising Sophomore Program.

RSP is the premier summer program for cadets transitioning from freshman year to sophomore year. Mandatory for all four-year Type 1 and 2 scholarship recipients, the program also allows some space for other cadets with a desire to participate.

Best described as a sampling of the enlisted corps, RSP is unique because it focuses on the enlisted perspective rather than focusing on the officers. Also designed to familiarize cadets with the daily operations of an Air Force installation, the program exposes cadets to a multitude of career fields. Additionally, it allows observation of young officers as well as non-commissioned officers to enhance understanding of how each person contributes to the Air Force mission.

The RSP is hosted at 10 different Air Force bases across the country.

On the first evening the cadets were split into four flights by their new cadre – Col. Lance Young, from Clemson University's Det. 770, Capt. Lance Merkley, from Louisiana Tech Univer-

sity's Det. 305, and Staff Sgt. Rodney Cathcart, from University of Georgia's Det. 160. Four cadets were designated as flight commanders and each one chose their vice commanders.

The first day was filled with briefings to orient the new arrivals to the base and explain the services offered to them. Cadets spent most of the next two weeks with several different enlisted members groups: operations, medical and maintenance.

### Mission Support Group

While with the mission support group, each flight was divided into groups of two or three and spread between the contributory squadrons. Those shadowing Aerial Port Squadron might spend the day driving up and down the flight line with Air Terminal Operation Center or port-clearing any of the 53 C-17 Globemaster III's stationed at Charleston Air Force Base. They also worked with other planes passing through, which ranged from C-5s, KC-10s, to civilian contracted 747s.

### Security Forces

Others cadets spent a portion of their day checking for identification at the gate with security forces or performing surveys with the civil engineers.

Security forces enlisted the help of Cadet David Smith, Det. 643, Wright State University, to help translate when a landscaper who spoke only Spanish was involved in an accident on base.

### Operations Group

The group also split up to join the operations group. The cadets had the opportunity to spend the day with the life support, flight records and tactics sections.

As Charleston is home to Air Mobility Command, the cadets with the tactics squadron witnessed the assembling of the parachutes used for dropping packages from C-17s. Life support demonstrated the use of night vision goggles as Iry cadets try their luck in a parachute simulator. Cadet Jarod Anderson, Det. 280, University of Kansas landed within five feet of the target, the closest anyone in the group came on their first try.

The two days with maintenance kept each pairing of cadets with the same sections. While working with Barracuda, Shark, Stingray, or Gator Flights on the planes, cadets assisted with performing pre-flight and post-flight checks in addition to helping with any repairs noticed during those checks.

Cadet Gregory Crossman, Det. 695, University of Portland, enjoyed changing the tires on a C-17.

"The tires are massive. Changing them was really cool," said Cadet Crossman.

Cadets participated in a walk designed to find foreign object debris on the flight line. During one flight line inspection, Cadet Michael Lam, Det. 060, University of Southern California, found a golden bolt. The golden bolt was placed on the flight line by order of the wing commander to ensure a

thorough inspection, and the person who finds it receives a day off from work.

### Medical Group

The medical group was the fourth rotation for the cadets. While shadowing the organization, the group flights were split up to spend half a day each with public health, logistics, dental and laboratory. Many cadets received x-rays of their teeth from dental and others had their blood samples taken and tested in the lab.

"We checked the expiration dates in the commissary. It's an important job because the commissary is also a 48-72 hour supply of food for the base to continue the mission in case of an emergency," explained Cadet Chad Raney, Det. 685 Oregon State University.

### Orientation Flight

Beside shadowing, they also had the

opportunity to head to Moody Air Force Base, Ga., for jet orientation incentive flights. Fifteen of the 39 cadets were allotted T-38 rides while the rest of them received flights on the T-6. After the cadets were trained to use the ejection seat properly, they were fitted for g-suits, helmets and masks. Many cadets experienced the ride of their lives, pulling up to 7.9 Gs in the high performance aircraft.

Other activities included a security forces display of the military working dogs and time in a C-17 simulator. Six cadets were tackled by the dogs after donning fully-padded suits, meant to protect from the bone-crushing bite of the dogs. Each also spent half an hour in the pilot seat of a C-17 attempting touch-and-go and air refueling.

The only major drawback to the program was the intense heat and humidity.

"The weather out here was a real shock. I've never experienced humidity

like this, some days it's just miserable. We couldn't (do physical training) outside on certain days because of the heat index," said Cadet Gregory Lamb, Det. 157 Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, who resides in California.

Excursions on the weekends included trips to the beach, which was the first time a few cadets from the Midwest had seen the ocean. Trips to Fort Sumter and Yorktown as well as afternoons spent in Charleston's historic downtown were also opportunities provided to the group.

Their final day in Charleston was spent flying on C-17. While reminiscing of the past three weeks, the cadets played witness to many of the C-17s premiere capabilities.

Cadet Kirsten Rizer, Det. 650 Ohio University was thankful "for the memories, the lessons learned, the fun times had, but most importantly, the new friends (I'll) never forget."





# Marching to the same beat

## Commissioned and Basic Officer Trainees graduate together

**By Breanna Wood**

Headquarters Air University Public Affairs, Ala.

Brig. Gen. Ronnie Hawkins, Air Force Officer Accession and Training School commander, administered the Oath of Office to more than 270 officers and officer-trainees June 30 at the first combined Commissioned and Basic Officer Training Schools' graduation ceremony on the OTS parade ground.

Traditionally, COT and BOT conducts a graduation parade in a separate ceremony, but BOT class 05-06 and COT class 05-05 combined an outdoor graduation parade on June 30. However, each class held separate award ceremonies on June 29 due to the uniqueness of awards presented to each group.

"To me, the parade was conducted almost flawlessly," Maj. Rob Lisch, COT director of operations, said. "I think it puts to rest a myth that COT students who are only here for four

weeks can't march. It shows that both COT and BOT students can make great strides within a short amount of time, and this was just their marching; COT students also make great strides in their leadership, professionalism and military customs and courtesies."

The presiding honorary party included General Hawkins, Col. David Gerber, commander of Officer Training School, Lt. Col. Floyd McKinney, 24th Training Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. Mark R. Morris, commander of the 23rd Training Squadron.

The honorary party presented graduation awards to high-ranking graduates of both COT and BOT before the commencement of the traditional graduation pass and review.

"[The pass and review] is a military tradition where the commanding gen-

eral gets to inspect the troops," Maj. Lisch said.

"But instead of him having to get up and move around them, the parade surrounds him. They get to be inspected and pay their respects to the general as they walk by," Maj. Lisch added.

OTS plans to have combined graduations as often as possible in the future; however, it is expected to only be probable about four times each year due to the overlapping class start and graduation dates of each school.

Only when graduation dates are scheduled in the same week will the two combine ceremonies again.

COT graduation dates will be less likely to reschedule because follow-on training such as medical school, law school or religious training restricts many students' time at OTS.



*Basic Officer Training and Commissioned Officer Training cadets march in review for commanders of Air Force Officer Accession and Training Schools June 30. The parade was part of the first combined COT and BOT graduation ceremony held at the Officer Training School Parade Field on Maxwell. The individual graduation observances were held together because the two program's training completion dates coincided.*

# Field training

## 20 years since cadets trained at Maxwell

**By Carl Bergquist**

Headquarters Air University Public Affairs, Ala.

For the first time in more than 20 years, Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets received field training at Maxwell Air Force Base.

This year, the base is part of the annual ROTC training normally held only at Ellsworth and Tyndall Air Force bases.

Capt. John Newbill, officer in charge of Air Force ROTC Field Training, said cadets from detachments across the country will attend one of two training sessions at Maxwell. The first group of 320 cadets arrived May 25 and departed June 23 while the second group of about 240 cadets arrived in late June.

"The training's major emphasis is on ROTC cadets demonstrating leadership skills are a requirement of a cadet's commissioning," he said. "For the most part, the first group of cadets will have just completed two years of ROTC when they arrive here. The second group will not yet have completed two years of ROTC and during the first week of their training will receive about a week of academic instruction at Auburn University at Montgomery."



Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

*Cadets search for papers before they enter a mock deployment line.*



Photo by Carl Bergquist

*A cadet jumps over one last hurdle before completing the confidence course.*



Photo by Carl Bergquist

*A cadet uses his strength to pull himself up.*

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED

# Cadets finish field training program

**By Carl Bergquist**

Headquarters Air University Public Affairs, Ala.

At 6 a.m., June 23, cadets attending the Reserve Officer Training Corps' field training at Maxwell/Gunter boarded various forms of transportation and returned home.

Their departure culminated 28 straight days of 17-hours-a-day instruction that was held for the first time at the Officer Training School facility at Maxwell.

Col. Greg Coker, ROTC Field Training commander, said cadets started each day at 4:15 a.m. and ended the day at 9:15 p.m., and of the 305 cadets that started the program 275 completed the course.

Colonel Coker said the first two years of ROTC training involves military studies and field training is the bridge between those years and becoming a professional officer candidate during their last two years of ROTC. He said field training has been terminated at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and there still is some training at Ellsworth AFB, S.D., and Tyndall AFB, Fla., but future plans are to eventually conduct all ROTC Field Training at Maxwell/Gunter.

"These are world-class facilities here at Maxwell/Gunter, everything is contained in one area," he said. "You have tracks and exercise fields, dormitories and classrooms and don't have to go anywhere else for the training."

Cadet Thea Danella, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, Ariz., said now that the training is over she will look back on it as

being fun and glad she did it.

"The days were long and hard and learning to work as a team with people you had never worked with before was the hardest part for me," she said. "But, meeting new people was also the best part because I established friendships I will probably have for a lifetime."

Cadet Danella, who wants to become an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot, said the importance of understanding who you are working with and knowing your people are lessons she will take back to her detachment.

Cadet Raquel Ayala, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., said whether the students were drilling, eating meals or in classrooms she learned there was "value in everything we did." She actually enjoyed the hours explaining that as a mechanical engineering student she got more sleep during the training than she normally did while at school.

"The challenging part of the training was working with so many cadets that are 'all-star leaders,'" said Cadet Ayala. "Everyone wanted to lead all the time and you had to learn when to lead and when to follow."

She said she enjoyed working with people from different regions of the country and different backgrounds and the fact that she will probably encounter them again in the future is "nice." Cadet Ayala's father, a Marine, encouraged her to go into the military and when she graduates college and receives her commission she would like to get



Photo by Senior Airman Krista Coons

*ROTC cadets discuss personnel schedules during the three-day mock deployment exercise at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.*

involved in Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Micah Yost, a cadet from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., said he most enjoyed learning about the Air Force's structure of command.

"I held several leadership positions during the training, such as group commander and flight physical fitness cadet, and that helped me learn Air Force chain of command," he said. "This will be information I can pass on to members of my detachment and it will also help me understand where my job lies within my (ROTC) group at NCU."

Cadet Yost, who wants to become an F-15 Eagle or F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, said he has wanted to learn to fly for a long time and that was one of the reasons he joined AFROTC.

Colonel Coker summed up the training by saying it is intense while going through it but cadets will look back on it with pride.

"To paraphrase Air Force senior leadership, everyone who comes to the training has the opportunity to succeed but not all will," he said. "Those who do succeed will go on to become tomorrow's Air Force leaders."





*A cadet informs fellow cadets about the current plan of action.*



*A cadet brings a duffel bag full of essentials items for the three and a half day exercise.*



*Field training exercise photos by Senior Airman Krista Coons  
Cadets emotions range from excited to anxious as they take a bus to a mock deployment site.*

# Cadets honor astronaut's memory

Det. 820, Texas Tech University, Texas

Thirteen cadets from Det. 820 provided support and the presentation of colors during a dedication in May.

A statue of Astronaut Willie McCool was dedicated during a special ceremony in Lubbock, Texas. Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool was the pilot on the Space Shuttle Columbia during mission STS-107. He and his six crewmates perished when the shuttle broke up during re-entry over the Texas Panhandle on February 1, 2003. The detachment's Sabre Flight Drill Team posted and retired the colors.

"I received one glowing comment after another prior to and following the dedication highlighting their bearing and dedication. They were an awesome part of the morning's

events," said Col. Dave Lefforge, Det. 820 Commander.

McCool had many family roots in Lubbock, having graduated from Coronado High School in 1979. The memorial paid tribute to him while hoping to inspire the dreams of future generations. The McCool statue features the astronaut standing in his flight suit, one hand reaching toward space with a young boy standing next to him holding a model airplane. The memorial was created as a lasting tribute to McCool's life and his contributions to understanding our place in the universe. The young boy represents Commander McCool's early interest in science and a sense of adventure.

A statue of Col. Rick Husband, commander of the shuttle mission,

was erected in 2004 at the Rick Husband Amarillo International Airport in Amarillo, Texas. Colonel Husband was an Amarillo native and graduate of Texas Tech University where he received his commission as a second lieutenant from Det. 820 in 1975. Both the McCool and Husband statues include uplifted arms pointing to space, and the statues face each other from their respective locations.

"From our orbital vantage point, we observe an Earth without borders, full of peace, beauty and magnificence, and we pray that humanity as a whole can imagine a borderless world as we see it, and strive to live as one... in peace."

– Commander William "Willie" McCool, January 29, 2003

***Det. 820's Sabre Flight Drill Team posted and retired the colors during a dedication in Lubbock, Texas to Astronaut Willie McCool in May. (Courtesy photo)***



# Creating new tradition, recruiting opportunities

## **Cadet Andrew L. Taylor**

Det. 825, University of Texas – Austin, Texas

The cadets at the University of Texas – Austin decided to end the spring semester in a new way.

In previous years, the cadet wing held a change of command ceremony and formal parade during regular class hours, which limited attendance to cadets. This semester, however, the cadet recruiting squadron with the assistance of the cadet wing staff successfully organized and orchestrated an entire day devoted to the end of another Det. 825 semester.

The cadets' families and friends and Air Force Junior ROTC units from the Austin area were invited to attend the detachment's first Spring Open House and Formal Parade in May. Recruiters and admissions representatives from the university and the detachment's cross-town schools discussed scholarship information with the Junior ROTC cadets. The Junior ROTC cadets also talked to current Det. 825 cadets, cadre and their families about their experiences with the ROTC program. Family members of cadets received a facility tour and presentations showcasing how Det. 825 operates on a daily basis, in addition to question-and-answer sessions with cadets and cadre.

The formal parade at the Myers Stadium was an opportunity for guests to observe a Det. 825 tradition and the cadet wing change of command. At cen-

ter field, Col. Michael Harris, Det. 825 commander, presided as Cadet Matthew Elmore relinquish command to Cadet Nicholas Estep as the new cadet wing commander for fall 2005.

More than 150 family members,

friends and Junior ROTC cadets learned about Det. 825's program and Air Force ROTC. The Spring Open House and Formal Parade helped Junior ROTC cadets toward their first step in pursuing a college degree as senior ROTC cadets.



*Courtesy photos*

*Det. 825 honor guard posts in front of the reviewing stand during the cadets' first Spring Open House and Formal Parade in May.*



# Governor recognizes leadership

**By Capt. Mario Perez**

Det. 175, University of Hawaii, Hawaii

For two cadet wing commanders, the thoughts of studying for finals were gradually pushed from their minds and replaced by the excitement of graduation, commissioning and starting their careers as Air Force officers. Their careers started with a bang as the governor of the State of Hawaii recognized them for their superior leadership during their tenure with Air Force ROTC at the University of Hawaii.

Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle pre-

sented both Cadets Stacy Lucas and Kurando Mensen with the Governor's Leadership Award. The annual award, sponsored by the governor's office, is normally awarded to the cadet corps' fall and spring wing commanders for exceptional leadership at the highest level in the corps.

Despite all of the hard work that led up to the ceremony, Cadet Mensen was still shocked to receive the award. "The level of distinction didn't hit me until

I was up there (on stage) shaking the governor's hand," he said.

"As wing commanders, Cadet Mensen and Cadet Lucas dedicated countless hours in planning and executing the training every cadet needs to become successful leaders in the Air Force, and whether they knew it or not, they were learning along the way. They will be commissioning in a few weeks and will definitely put into practice what they learned" said Capt Andy Levien, the commandant of cadets.

"We truly appreciated the governor making time in her extremely busy schedule to honor and thank our cadets for their willingness to serve our country. Her attendance sent a powerful message," said Lt. Col. Bibiana Laborte, Det. 175 commander. "It leaves no doubt for the cadets that our government leaders appreciate their service."

For Cadets Lucas and Mensen, along with dozens of other cadets garnering awards during the evening, this ceremony will be a memorable experience. "Having the governor present me with an award recognizing my leadership skills is humbling. I'll remember this for a long time," said Cadet Lucas.



*Courtesy photo*

*Det. 175 commander Lt. Col. Bibiana R. Laborte, University of Hawaii Interim President Dr. David McClain, Cadet Stacey Lucas, State of Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, Cadet Kurando Mensen and University of Hawaii at Manoa Chancellor Dr. Peter Englert after the Governor's Leadership Award ceremony in April.*

## Cadets honor veterans at Husky Rejoin

**By Cadet Nathan Anding**

Det. 910, University of Washington, Wash.

Cadets hosted a Husky Rejoin reception at the University of Washington in May. The concept for Husky Rejoin was based on Air Command and Staff College's "Gathering of Eagles," a unique program that stimulates the study of aviation history by providing class members interaction with aviation veterans.

The event honored and recognized many veterans in the Puget Sound area. Some of the veterans in attendance at Husky Rejoin included Fred Rosenfelder, Lois Auchterlonie, Mary Jean

Sturdevant, Lt. Col. Jim Nakauchi, Col. Dave Reinholz, Lt. Col. Doug Benjamin, Col. Ralph Jenkins, J. W. Roundhill and Chaplain Theodore Wuerffel.

All of the veterans led distinguished careers in the Air Force, and the group represented various time periods and career fields from a World War II Ace to a present day Iraqi War planner.

The life stories of the veterans were presented around the room on individual displays so that guests could view the various careers of the veterans. Dur-

ing the ceremony, cadets gave briefings about each veteran's careers and they reflected on how the positive examples related to the leadership curriculum the cadets studied during the year.

The event's success could be seen through the smiles of the veterans in attendance. Although Husky Rejoin was meant as a group leadership exercise for the cadets, its primary purpose was to honor the great men and women in the area who have served in the United States Air Force/Army Air Corps with distinction.

# The Fighting Irish

## Four siblings make the Air Force a family affair

**By Deborah Mercurio**

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, N.M.

At the commissioning ceremony for the University of North Carolina's Det. 590, Cadet Margaret "Maggie" O'Brien became 2nd Lt. Maggie O'Brien only after her brother, Capt. Morgan J. O'Brien III, commissioned her with the oath of office; her sister-in-law, Capt. Jill O'Brien, helped affix her new rank and her brother, Airman 1st Class Andrew O'Brien rendered her first salute.

The four O'Brien Airmen — the three siblings hail from Oceanside, N.Y., and Jill is a Cincinnati native — are all currently serving on active duty, striving to make both their family and country proud.

Andrew is an information manager at F.E. Warren, Wyo., serving as executive assistant to the commander of the 90th Security Forces Group.

After starting in the ROTC program at the University of Notre Dame, Andrew enlisted shortly after graduating.

"It's a good thing that we have an enlisted member around here," chided Andrew, "or else nothing would ever get done around this family."

All jokes aside, Andrew credits his parents for encouraging him and his siblings.

"We couldn't have done what we've done without their constant support," said the 24-year-old, who is scheduled to become a senior airman toward the end of the month.

The children and daughter-in-law of Morgan O'Brien Jr. and Susie O'Brien all joined for the educational benefits provided by Air Force ROTC before Sept. 11, 2001, but the realities of the Global War on Terror soon underscored the importance of their chosen career path.

"My husband Morgan and I are so proud of the four of them," said Mrs. O'Brien. "We live in a Long Island community that lost so many people on 9/11, so we recognize why our military needs good personnel now more than ever."

Morgan set the standard for his younger brother and sister when he enrolled in the ROTC program at UNC.

"We saw it was a way to enable us to pay for school and do something for our

country afterward," said Andrew.

Morgan and Jill are stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., where Jill is a program manager for the Air Force Distributed Missions Operations Center and Morgan is the deputy director of public affairs for the 377th Air Base Wing.

The pair met as ROTC cadets (Jill graduated from Indiana University and Morgan from UNC) at the summer free fall parachute training program hosted by the U.S. Air Force Academy and were married July 2004.

"With role models like my brothers and Jill, joining the Air Force was an easy choice," said Maggie. "I can't wait to serve with them."

After attending the Air and Space Basic Course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., Maggie, the youngest O'Brien, will begin missileer training at Vandenberg AFB, Calif.

"The pride they have in wearing the uniform, and the hard work each one puts into defending our country is the most rewarding way they could possibly honor us," said Mr. O'Brien.



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Morgan O'Brien, Airman 1st Class Andrew O'Brien, 2nd Lt. Maggie O'Brien and 1st Lt. Jill O'Brien.

# Lift Off!

## 'Fighter Pilot' film provides cadets insight about Red Flag training program

**Cadet Brian Ferkaluk**

Det. 643, Wright State University, Ohio

Det. 643 launched a new line of leadership labs with a visit to the Air Force Museum in March, where participants experienced the "Fighter Pilot" film in the museum's IMAX theater. The guests of honor, seven fighter pilots, arrived with Col. Bernard Fullenkamp, the detachment commander.

This is a change from previous lead labs, 90 percent of which were composed of briefings giving instruction on how to act professionally, speak professionally and perform certain tasks they will need in future Air Force careers.

According to participants, the lab was inspiring and it gave cadets a new sense of vigor.

The film started with a narration from a fighter pilot going through the Red Flag training program. The first scene inside the cockpit created the sensation of being inside the F-15 as it took off. The audience "felt" the ground getting smaller as the jet lifted off vertically, curved, maneuvered and performed other acrobatics.

The film continued with the pilot learning from the mistakes he had made while he explained the mental strength and stamina required, as well as the piloting skills one must possess if they want to be the best at what they do. The film consisted of multiple training exercises that had dangerous explosions, and a jumbled storm of jets dog fighting.

The cadets' reactions were mixed. Some felt the movement caused their heads to spin, while others were riding it like a roller coaster.



*Courtesy photo*

*Det. 643 cadets ask fighter pilots about their careers and training requirements after watching the IMAX film "Fighter Pilot" at the Air Force Museum in March.*

Afterwards, the fighter pilots talked to the cadets about their experiences and their reactions to the film. Then it was time for questions. Many questions dealt with how accurate the film was and about the qualifications for training.

A series of related questions about family life during training and the Air Force in general were asked. The guests explained that typically pilots and other airmen do not see much of their spouses, especially during training.

The speakers gave the cadets a chal-

lenge: to do their jobs and do it well.

"Whatever your job may be, be the best at it." They closed by reminding the cadets that the United States has the best Air Force in the world, and that they would soon be a part of it.

A renewed sense of patriotism and pride for the Air Force swept the cadets as they stepped out of the dimmed theater into the light. They now had a clearer focus of their purpose in the Air Force, and they will strive to be the best in their careers.



# Helping families one chore at a time

**By Cadets Kristin Jurens and Holly Frost**

Det. 255, The University of Iowa, Iowa

Thirty cadets from Det. 255 at the University of Iowa volunteered their time in March to help families at the Ronald McDonald House with various chores and projects.

The cadets served at the house because despite the numerous comforts it provides, the house receives no federal or state funding and relies solely on private donations. Families are asked to pay \$15 per night, but if the families cannot afford it, the house will not turn them away. During their stay however, the families are asked to help out with the chores, such as straightening up, vacuuming and sweeping.

Most of the parents spend their entire day at the hospital with their children, and when they come back every night they still have chores to do. According to cadets, the volunteers were honored to be

able to help out with chores so the families did not have to worry about them. The cadets had a great time playing with the children who were at the Ronald McDonald House. Some of them helped the children make Easter cards and pass out baskets, while others went outside and played basketball or on the jungle gym.

The cadets performed numerous tasks such as organizing the cupboards in the kitchen, doing the dishes, organizing the toy room for the kids, and dusting the woodwork. And since it was such a gorgeous day, some cadets even went outside to rake the yard and sweep the leaves and dirt off of the basketball court.

After all the chores were done, everyone gathered in the family room and ate pizza and fruit and drank beverages provided by the cadet wing.

The cadets left the house with a feeling of pride and accomplishment. They left with the honor of knowing that what they did made so many people's days much easier.

Since opening in 1985, the Iowa City Ronald McDonald House has accommodated more than 12,000 families. Every year, thousands of children suffering from critical conditions receive medical care at the University of Iowa hospitals and clinics.

The Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for these families. The house has many facilities, including a recreational room, laundry room, basketball court, playground, fully-equipped kitchen area, library, free shuttle to the hospital, living room/family room, and 32 guest rooms, each with a private bathroom and phone.



*Courtesy photo*

*Det. 255 cadets help critically ill children make Easter cards during a visit to the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City, Iowa.*

# Air Force cadets tackle Army training

AL-961, Southside High School, Ala.

While most high school students were just starting to unwind from the daily pace of academic demands, a group of 10 young men and women, and their Air Force Junior ROTC instructors from Southside High, volunteered a week of their time off to participate in the rigors of Army training. They joined 489 fellow cadets at the U.S. Army Junior ROTC Summer Encampment, May 30 through June 4 at Fort McClellan, Ala.

This encampment provided a hands-on snapshot of what actual basic military training is like for aspiring young soldiers and Airmen. Cadets awoke before sunup at 5 a.m. to a daily regimen where they engaged in physical training, ran a mile, participated in training activities, and competed in intramural athletics. Regardless of rain or shine, the cadets continued to train.

Training events included rappelling off a 35-foot tower, mastering obstacles on the confidence course, and team building at the leadership reaction course. All events are designed to boost cadets' confidence by getting over their fear of these obstacles and to promote teamwork through training events and intramural sports competition.

Southside cadets have quite a legacy at this encampment. Over the past seven years, more than 100 Southside cadets have attended this camp. Their Aerospace Science Instructors, retired Senior Master Sgt. Alex Medina and retired Lt. Col. Steve Ruiz, have attended and actively served on the camp's cadre faculty a total of 13 times.

"We keep coming back for the cadets," said Sergeant Medina. "You can see the changes immediately when one of them overcomes their

fear of heights on the rappel tower, crosses an obstacle, or leads their team to success at the leadership reaction course. Their success then becomes our success."

Throughout the six-day encampment, cadets have an opportunity to earn Leadership Impact Awards for their performance during the training day. They also have numerous opportunities to medal on the field of athletic or drill competition.

"There's something for every cadet here," commented Colonel Ruiz. "Despite the rainy, hot and humid conditions all week, these cadets never let up, not one moment. Nothing replaces the pride I feel presenting medals to these young people. For them, all the medals are pure gold."

The overall purpose of this encampment extends well beyond any training gained. "These cadets are our future," said Lt. Col. Rick Macaulay, camp commander. "Our job one as cadre is to prepare these young people to be ready to assume



positions of leadership either in the community or the military. I only wish everyone could see how hard these cadets strive to achieve here at camp."

The camp also recognizes cadets who excel. Both Cadets Jennifer Anderson and Rebecca Sutton from Southside were recognized in the top five percent of all the cadets in attendance with the camp's Top 5 Leadership Awards.



Photos by Lt. Col. Steve Ruiz

*Top right: Cadet Rebecca Sutton high-steps her way through the confidence course during a Army Junior ROTC Summer Encampment at Ft. McClellan, Ala.*

*Above: Cadet Sutton carefully low crawls under barbed wire.*

# Aloha: Cadets learn military history during curriculum-in-action trip to Hawaii

**By Cadet Arielle Ares**

CT-021, Danbury High School, Conn.

Cadets experienced beautiful beaches, blue skies, swaying trees and hot sun first hand on a curriculum-in-action trip to Hawaii for one week in April. Twenty cadets were selected for this prestigious trip. To be eligible students were required to maintain a B average in both aerospace science classes and in uniform grades.

Travel from New York to Honolulu was via a direct flight that took about 10 hours. To pass the time cadets studied, watched movies, slept and did homework.

"We had some jet-lag when we got there, but the cadets were very excited about this unique trip," said Lt. Col. Valerie J. Lofland, the senior aerospace science instructor. The cadets were billeted at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu.

The cadets visited the Hawaii Air National Guard at Hickam Air Force Base and the Army special operations unit at

Wheeler Army Auxiliary Field. They also went to Pearl Harbor and toured a nuclear submarine and visited the USS Arizona Memorial on a special Navy launch where there was a moment of silence for fallen heroes.

"We got to visit what was in the movie 'Pearl Harbor;' except, we saw what it was really like," said Cadet Marina Cordero.

"We realized how important each event was by the silence we gave for our fallen men and women," said Cadet Matthew Abrantes, the squadron's deputy commander.

Cadet Thomas Trocola, the squadron commander, commented, "We learned that the Air Force has so many missions at one time, all over the globe. It's not just about the airplanes like most people think. It's really more involved and we got to see that."

In addition to a hectic week visiting military bases the cadets attended a luau,



snorkeling and the afternoon at Bellows Air Force Station's beach.

The cadets were given the special opportunity to visit Hawaii thanks to their hard work and studying. "Just stepping off the plane and onto Hawaii was a great feeling, and learning about our country's military heritage made it even more important for all of us," said Cadet Daniel Reinhardt.



*Above: Danbury High School Junior ROTC cadets stand in formation during a physical training session on a Hawaiian mountain side in April. Left: Cadets take a moment to pose on Hawaii's white sandy beaches during a curriculum-in-action trip. (Courtesy photos)*



# JROTC raises cash for wounded veteran's family

By Adam Karlin

Prince George's County Gazette, Md.

**H**is friends, family and teammates remember Tech. Sgt. Chad Giesige as an active scuba and sky diver, motorcycle enthusiast and an agile athlete who could never sit still and once motorcycled 11,000 miles across the country.

He was the kind of character who slipped naturally into an Air Force special tactics unit, engaging in covert operations in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq. And his loved ones would rather have him back there, active again even if he was in danger, instead of recovering in a hospital from a severe head wound he received in January while in Iraq.

"If he gets better, we want him to go back. Because I know he would want to," said Bill Giesige, the soldier's father, minutes after receiving a \$1,200 check from the Oxon Hill High School Air Force JROTC on Friday -- the first time he left his son's side since he came home in a coma.

The 387 members of the JROTC, one of the largest in the country, raised that money in three weeks at the suggestion of Oxon Hill alumnus Capt. Kenneth Cushing.

Captain Cushing made the suggestion after Sergeant Giesige was flown to Germany and then to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, about 400 miles from his family in Ohio.

"His family and fiancée were traveling up here weekly. It was very expensive for them to essentially uproot themselves and move up here," said Captain Cushing, who never knew Giesige personally but is close friends with Capt. John Traxer, who served with Giesige overseas.

To help the family with travel expenses, Captain Cushing asked the JROTC chapter if they could do a fundraiser. The response was quick and affirmative.

"I passed the word around, and im-

mediately we said this is what we need to do," said Cordell Jackson, who was the wing commander of the Air Force JROTC at the time.

Captain Cushing was both surprised and pleased by the quick response from his old high school.

"We try and give outside perspectives to the students [through the outreach program], but they really turned the tables and shocked us," said Captain Cushing, referring to the amount of money the JROTC raised in a limited time frame.

Mr. Jackson and his fellow students went to different local organizations and clubs and were soon securing donations across the county. The end result was the check they presented Captain Traxer and Sergeant Giesige's family.

The Giesiges told the JROTC they were thankful beyond words.

"We are a small unit, and we've had someone at the hospital every week since Sergeant Giesige has been hurt. We're a very close-knit group of guys," Captain Traxer said.

Now Sergeant Giesige's friends and family have some hope, as Giesige is transferred from Walter Reed to a rehabilitation facility in Richmond, Va. Nonetheless, he remains brain-dam-



Courtesy photo

*Tech. Sgt. Chad Giesige, a U.S. Air Force Special Tactics Operator, was severely wounded in Iraq and is receiving treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.*

aged, and no one is predicting if and how he will emerge from his ordeal.

"But just being there means a lot," said Bill Giesige.

*(Reprinted article courtesy of Prince George's County Gazette)*



# NEWS: *Around the nation*

## ROTC

### **Det. 090, Colorado State University, Colo.**

Det. 090's Honor Guard attended the Southern California Invitational Drill Meet where they won second place in the four-man drill and third place in the team competition.

Additionally, the honor guard attended the National Invitational Drill Meet at the United States Air Force Academy.

They finished first, second and third special exhibition competition.

Capt. Kirsten Burgess was awarded the best education officer in ROTC, Capt. Bonnie Schwartzkopf was selected as Company Grade Officer of the Quarter for Air Force ROTC, Staff Sgt. Molly Griggs was selected as Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter for the Northwest Region and the administrative assistant Cathleen Ellis received the 2005 CSU Outstanding Achievement Award.

### **Det 630, Kent State University, Ohio**

Det. 630 hosted its first Air Force Junior ROTC Field Day. More than 280 Junior ROTC cadets from four local units participated in special drill, individual drill evaluation, drill down, ultimate Frisbee, and tug-of-war.

After each event, Det. 630 cadets talked with small groups of Junior ROTC cadets about Air Force ROTC, college life, and Kent State University and its cross town schools.

## Junior ROTC

### **IN-061, Jefferson High School, Ind.**

Cadet Patrie Davis, Jeffersonville High School cadet commander, was awarded the Louisville Armed Forces Outstanding Air Force JROTC Cadet Award for 2005. The award is presented at the annual Louisville Armed Forces Dinner, the oldest continuous Armed Forces Dinner in America having its start in 1919. The award, consisting of a plaque and a \$300 scholarship, was awarded by the keynote speaker, Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell. Cadet Davis earned the award by demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities and superior academic achievement.

She was highly active in the Corps and community programs and logged more than 1,000 hours participating in and managing those programs. She was selected for the Physical Education Leadership Program and earned a 4.0 grade point average. She was a volunteer for five years as a member of the McCulloch Fire Departments Explorers program and also acted as a guide at Jeffersonville's Howard Steamboat Museum. She will be attending Evansville University in Evansville, Ind. and double majoring in History and Archeology.

### **SC-955, Southside High School, S.C.**

Southside High School's Corps of Cadets has been selected as one of the top units in the United States. For the third consecutive year, the Corps has received the Distinguished Unit Award. Previously, they have also received the Air Force Junior ROTC Unit Excellence Award.

Additionally, during the month of June a group of 15 Southside High School's attended a seven-day cadet leadership school held at Mercer University in Macon, Ga. Four Southside cadets received special recognition for their achievements. Cadet

Porsche Jenkins received the distinction of not only stepping in as the Cadet Camp Commander, but she received one of three Outstanding Leadership Awards. Cadet Valerie Narvvez received the Outstanding Basic Leadership Award, Cadet Margarita Rodriguez received the Outstanding Flight Cadre Award, and Cadet Latoya Wheeler received the Best in Regulation Drill Award. Additionally, Cadets Cherie Green, Dana Brown, Valerie Narvaez and Caleb Mathis were members of the flight that received the camp's Outstanding Flight Award.

### **TX-20025, W. Charles Akins High School, Texas**

Cadets assisted Operation Enduring Freedom troops from the Army National Guard, 111th Area Support Group from Austin, Texas. The cadets participated in "Operation Shoebox" by collecting various items such as school supplies, hygiene products, playing cards, music and magazines. The boxes were

mailed to the troops stationed in Afghanistan. Some of the items are for use by the troops, and the school supplies will be distributed to local school children. Members of the 111th are helping young Afghani girls learn to read and the supplies will help in their effort.

# Training the night away

*ROTC cadets learn how to react to certain situations at forward deployed locations during a three-and-a-half day field training exercise at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in July.*

*Clockwise from right: Cadet Nathan Anding, Det. 910, University of Washington, discusses strategy plans with a fellow cadet.*

*The flag security detail practice folding the flag for retreat during the middle of the night.*

*Cadets guard "tent city" with M-16 replicas. The cadets were required to maintain 24-hour operations to protect the base.*




*Photos by Senior Airman Krista Coons*

Robert E. Lee High School,  
Ala., Junior ROTC was awarded  
Youth Group Volunteer of the  
Year in May by the Volunteer  
and Information Center. Pictured  
are Cadets Jessica Gilley, group  
commander, and Zack Andrews,  
vice group commander.  
Photo by Jamie Martin.  
Courtesy of Montgomery  
Parents Magazine







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# A Galaxy near you

*The gigantic C-5 Galaxy, with its tremendous payload capability, provides the Air Mobility Command intertheater airlift supporting United States national defense. The C-5 is one of the largest aircraft in the world. It can carry outsize and over-size cargo intercontinental ranges and can take off or land in relatively short distances. Ground crews can load and unload the C-5 simultaneously at front and rear cargo openings.*  
(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung)